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SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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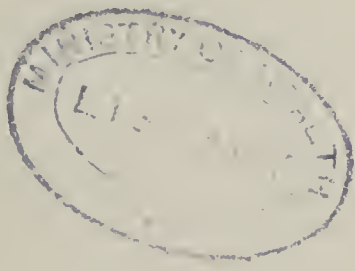
REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

1952
.....

S T A F F



Medical Officer of Health: Robert N.C. McCurdy, M.B.,
CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector : D.B. Foxwell, C.S.I.B.,
A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	..	..	..	93,216
Population (estimated at mid-year by Registrar General)	..	..	..	8,830
Number of inhabited houses	..			2,841
Rateable Value	..	..	..	£25,655.-.-.
Product of 1d Rate	..	..		£102.10.-.

TO:-

The Chairman and Members
of the SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman,
My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances, health and vital statistics of your district for the year 1952.

Two indices of health, namely the birth and death rates, show favourable trends. The birth rate has increased again and is above the average rate for the whole country, the death rate has fallen and is below that for the country as a whole.

There are no significant changes in the causes of death, apart from a welcome absence of deaths from motor vehicles and other accidents.

Epidemics of scarlet fever and measles occurred, but neither assumed very large proportions. Of the two cases of poliomyelitis notified, one was confirmed and the other was not confirmed.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

The provisions of this Section are "for the purposes of securing the necessary care and attention for persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions, and are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention."

The Section goes on to explain that, if the medical officer of Health is satisfied that in the interests of any such person it is necessary to remove them, the local authority may apply for a Court Order to do so.

A number of cases involving aged persons have arisen where action might have been taken under this Section. I have not thought fit to recommend you to take such action, because I think there is a tendency to regard the interests of old people from too narrow an angle.

The situation has usually been that of an old person living alone in insanitary conditions. I have always adopted the principle that if such a person is of sound mind, then they have a right to choose their place of abode, even if their choice may be somewhat to the detriment of their physical health, provided that they are not endangering the health of other persons.

The simple truth is often overlooked, that there is no place like home. Home is what you are used to, however humble it may be. An old person has little else than memories to live for and these are nearly all associated with home.

The greater the physical disabilities of an old person, the more is this true. If they cannot get about they have around them those things which, and those people who, interest them most. If they are blind they know their way about by the

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familiar objects whose feel they have come to know.

I can see no justification for trying to fit the elderly against their will into new and unfamiliar, albeit more hygienic, surroundings even if, which is doubtful, their lives might be prolonged a little thereby.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.
Regulation 20

During the year under review, restrictions were placed on the sale of milk from one herd and lifted in respect of four herds. In all these cases the organism involved was *Brucella abortus*.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred in the district in 1952.

MEDICAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
		74	72	146

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	0	1	1

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Population at mid-year, Births, Birthrate, Stillbirths,

Stillbirth Rates during the past five years

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Population	8,075	8,206	8,572	8,840	8,830
Births (total)	185	152	188	140	146
Birthrate per 1,000 of population	22.9	18.6	21.9	15.8	16.5
Stillbirths	2	2	3	2	1
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of population	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
.. per 1,000 total births	10.7	13.0	15.2	14.1	6.8

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>All Ages</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
		47	46	93
	<u>Infants under 1 year</u>	1	4	5

Causes of Death of Infants under 1 Year

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Prematurity	0	2	2
Congenital malformation	0	1	1
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Intussusception	0	1	1

Population at mid-year, deaths, deathrate, infant
deaths, infant mortality rate, during the
past five years

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Population	8,075	8,206	8,572	8,840	8,830
Deaths	72	90	83	110	93
Deathrate per 1,000 of population	8.9	10.8	9.7	12.4	10.5
Infant Deaths	1	5	7	2	5
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	5.4	32.9	37.2	14.3	34.2

Deaths from certain selected causes during the
past five years

Cause	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Tuberculosis	2	3	4	1	1
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	8	10	5	15	13
Other notifiable infectious diseases	0	0	0	1	0
Motor vehicles and other accidents	2	1	9	7	0
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	11	9	9	16	17

Deaths according to Ages
(Compiled from Returns submitted by the District Registrar)

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	1	4	5
1 and under 5	0	0	0
5 .. 10	0	0	0
10 .. 20	0	0	0
20 .. 30	0	1	1
30 .. 40	0	0	0
40 .. 50	1	1	2
50 .. 60	6	6	12
60 .. 70	7	5	12
70 .. 80	16	13	29
80 .. 90	13	13	26
90 and over	3	3	6
TOTALS	47	46	93

Causes of Death at ages above 1 year and below 50

Age Group	Sex	Cause
20 to 30	Female	Rheumatic fever
40 to 50	Male	Heart disease
	Female	Cholecystitis

Deaths from All Causes
(Registrar General's Short List)

List No.	Cause	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	1	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7	Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1	4
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	4	9
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	9	14
18	Coronary disease, angina	8	2	10
19	Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0
20	Other heart disease	8	7	15
21	Other circulatory disease	5	4	9
22	Influenza	0	1	1
23	Pneumonia	4	5	9
24	Bronchitis	3	1	4
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	0	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32	Other defined & ill-defined diseases	1	8	9
33	Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
34	All other accidents	0	0	0
35	Suicide	0	0	0
36	Homicide & operations of war	0	0	0
TOTALS	All causes	47	46	93

The following table compares birth rates, death rates etc., of this district with those of England and Wales and of the Administrative County of Norfolk in 1952

	England & Wales	Norfolk	Swaffham R.D.
Birthrate	15.3	15.0	16.5
Stillbirth rate per 1000 of population	0.35	0.29	0.11
Deathrate	11.3	11.3	10.5
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births	27.6	28.2	34.2
Tuberculosis deathrate per 1000 of population	0.24	0.13	0.11
Tuberculosis case rate per 1000 of population	---	0.83	0.68

Infectious diseases notified during the past five years

Disease	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Tuberculosis, all sites	10	15	9	3	6
Paratyphoid	0	1	0	0	0
Scarlet fever	2	1	5	9	23
Whooping Cough	48	6	34	95	13
Erysipelas	0	1	1	3	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	0	1	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0	1	1
Measles	46	48	206	20	112
Poliomyelitis	2	0	1	0	2
Pneumonia	3	1	1	6	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0
Infectious jaundice	0	14	7	2	3

Infectious Diseases notified in 1952, by ages

Disease	under 1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	over 65	Total
Tuberculosis all sites	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	6
Scarlet Fever	0	4	14	4	0	0	1	0	23
Whooping cough	1	7	4	0	0	0	0	1	13
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Dysentery	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Measles	3	43	48	9	2	5	2	0	112
Poliomyelitis	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Pneumonia	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	5
Infectious jaundice	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3

Infections Diseases notified in 1952, by month of Notification

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Apl.	May.	Jun.	Jly.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Tuberculosis all sites	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	6
Scarlet fever	0	1	0	11	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	5	23
Whooping cough	1	1	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	13
Erysipelas	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dysentery	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	1	21	47	22	10	3	0	1	6	0	1	0	112
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pneumonia	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
Infectious jaundice	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3

Infections Diseases notified in 1952 according
to Parishes

Parish	T.B. all sites	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Measles	Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Infectious Jaundice
Ashill	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Beechamwell	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bradenham	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Cockley Cley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cranwich	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Cressingham Grt.	0	0	8	0	0	2	0	0	0
Cressingham Lt.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Didlington	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Foulden	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	0
Gooderstone	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Hilborough	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holme Hale	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Ickburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lynford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mundford	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Narborough	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Narford	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Necton	0	3	0	0	0	16	0	0	1
Newton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oxborough	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Pickenham North	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	2	0
Pickenham South	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
Saham Toney	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southacre	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sporle	1	13	1	0	0	55	1	1	0
Stanford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sturston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weeting	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	6	23	13	1	1	112	2	5	3

The following Table shows the number of Cases
on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December
1952 compared with 31st December, 1951

	<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>Non-respiratory</u>			<u>Grand Total</u>
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
31.12.51	13	16	29	2	3	5	34
31.12.52	12	17	29	4	3	7	36
	<hr/>			<hr/>			<hr/>

I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee. I especially wish to thank my colleagues on the staff for their continuing helpfulness.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT N. C. McCURDY

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for 1952

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration, my
Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1952.

1. RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

Drainage & Sewerage	209
Housing	246
Refuse collection & Disposal	54
Food Premises	46
Water Supplies	107
Infectious Disease	41
Moveable Dwellings	4
Factories	14
Rat Infestation	57
Milk & Dairies	8
Verminous Premises	21
Miscellaneous	52

859

2. COMPLAINTS & NUISANCES

13 reported nuisances were investigated and in all cases abatement was secured by informal action. These cases mainly related to unsatisfactory drainage and the keeping of animals.

3. HOUSING

Informal action has secured repairs to property in the majority of cases which have arisen during the year under review.

1 Statutory Notice was served during the year to secure repairs to two cottages and this was complied with.

Magistrates' Court proceedings were taken in one case where the requirements of a Statutory Notice had not been carried out. A nuisance order was made in this case and the work subsequently completed.

A review of houses placed in Category V of the Rural Housing Survey in the Parishes of Bradenham, Gooderstone, Mundford, Narborough, North Pickenham and Sporle was carried out during the year with a view to subsequent action under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936.

4. WATER SUPPLIES

2 samples of water from private sources were submitted for chemical analysis and both proved satisfactory.

19 samples of water from private sources were submitted for bacteriological examination, 13 being satisfactory, and 6 unsatisfactory.

40 samples of water from the Council's supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination and all proved satisfactory.

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In co-operation with the County Council Public Health Department, water supplies proposed to be used for bottle fed infants have been investigated when it was suspected that the nitrate content of the water might be sufficiently high to endanger the health of an infant by cyanosis. In 6 cases where well water was found to have a high nitrate content, arrangements were made for alternative safe supplies.

It is envisaged that such cases will become less frequent in the district owing to the Council's progress in providing piped water supplies to most areas.

5. DISINFECTION & DISINFESTATION

Disinfection was carried out at 15 houses following cases of infectious disease, formaldehyde and a disinfectant spray being used.

Infestations of fleas were effectively eliminated in 2 cases by use of D.D.T. spray and smoke generators.

6. SEWERAGE

No Parish in the district has yet a proper system of public sewerage.

The scheme for Saham Toney in conjunction with Wayland Rural District Council, is nearing completion after overcoming difficulties in construction caused by running sand encountered upon excavation, which occasioned the abandonment of one short length of sewer in the original scheme.

A scheme for the sewerage of the village of Mundford is in course of preparation.

Drainage from houses on the Council's post-war housing sites is disposed of in most cases by septic tanks and sub-soil irrigation. This system calls for the frequent emptying of septic tanks especially in some areas where the nature of the land makes soakage difficult, and for this purpose the Council maintain a cesspool emptying vehicle which is also available for work at private houses on request.

During the year, septic tanks to serve groups of new Council Houses were installed in the Parishes of Beccleshamwell, Ickburgh, Mundford, Saham Toney and Weeting.

All works of new drainage and sewerage were inspected and tested before covering.

7. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collections of household refuse are made throughout the district at approximately six-weekly intervals by contractors engaged by the Council. Disposal is by tipping at 7 pits within the district where, in spite of a lack of covering material, no nuisance has been created, as, due to the infrequency of collections, the refuse in the main consists of tins and bottles, putrescible matters being disposed of by the householders on their premises by means of incineration and composting.

Tips at Mundford, Gooderstone and Ashill have been treated for minor rat infestations.

8. FOOD PREMISES

Food premises in the district coming within the scope of the

Food & Drugs Act, 1937 and the Council's Clean Food Bye-laws number 76.

These consist of :-

38 Shops
6 Bakehouses
30 Public Houses

The majority of the shops are of the general store type, with living accommodation attached. Periodical visits have been made and suggestions made with regard to cleanliness of premises and the display of foodstuffs.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

28 Tins Cherries
8 Tins Plums
4 Tins Luncheon Meat
1 Tin Pilchards

9. MILK AND DAIRIES

3 Milk Distributors and Dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Regular inspections have been made and the premises found to be satisfactory.

2 Dealers Licences to sell milk under the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" and one for "Pasteurised" have been issued.

10. ICE CREAM

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. 12 shops are registered for the sale of ice cream, this being pre-packed and stored in refrigerated cabinets.

11. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

5 Licences to station trailer caravans on sites within the district were granted during the year.

12. RODENT CONTROL

Part-time operators were again employed during the year to carry out surveys under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, to determine the presence of rat infestations. Where requested, these operators also acted in private capacity in the treatment of infestations found.

	Type of Property				
	Local authority	Dwelling houses	Agricul:	Other	Total
Number of properties inspected by local authority as a result of (a) notification (b) survey	(a) -	3	2	4	9
	(b) 7	1094	119	45	1265
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested with rats	Major -	-	-	-	-
	Minor 3	116	14	3	136
Number of infested properties treated by local authority	3	53	-	-	56

Number of "block" control schemes carried out 1

13. FACTORIES INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupier prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	16	14	Nil	Nil
Factories without mechanical power	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	17	14	Nil	Nil

Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of prosecutions
			To H.M. Insp:	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Infective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for the sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against Factories Act 1937	-	-	-	-	-

Yours obediently,

D.B. FOXWELL

Sanitary Inspector

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following part of the annual report of the Medical Officer.

1. WATER SUPPLY

At the beginning of the year under review, a piped water supply had been made available in the Western area in the Parishes of Weeting, Mundford, Gooderstone and Foulden. The sources of these supplies are small bores situate within the Parish and the water is passed to service untreated. The village of Sporle was also given a piped supply, the source being the bore on the Council Housing Site. This scheme is, however, to be incorporated into the Regional Scheme for the Eastern part of the district.

The Regional Scheme to supply the Parishes of Bradenham, Holme Hale, Ashill, Saham, North Pickenham, Necton and later Sporle, was completed during the year and effort was made to secure early connection of consumers in these Parishes.

Water to this region is drawn from bores at Bradenham and is treated for removal of iron and softening before passing to service.

2. HOUSING

During 1952 the Council completed 32 houses, bringing the total constructed since the war to 339.

The Council also have 91 converted military hutments, making the total number of dwellings of all types controlled by the Council 652.

Yours obediently,

E.M. JENKINS

Surveyor

